

671
N436
NH

NEMOURIA

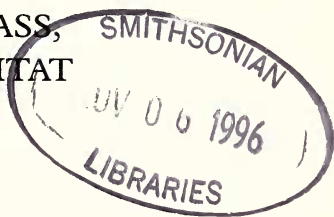
Occasional Papers of the Delaware Museum of Natural History

NUMBER 40

DECEMBER 5, 1995

A SMALL COLLECTION OF BIRDS
FROM THE PHILIPPINES
WITH NOTES ON BODY MASS,
DISTRIBUTION, AND HABITAT

Johannes Erritzoe¹



ABSTRACT. The importance of avian body mass is well understood. In this paper, masses of 199 individuals from 84 species of Philippine birds are reported, along with sex, month, and the bird's condition; interesting occurrences and plumage notes are presented for 12 other specimens.

INTRODUCTION

Many have already outlined the value of avian body mass data as one of the most important avian measurements (e.g., Clench & Leberman, 1978; Thomas, 1982; Dunning, 1984; Smith, et al., 1986). Several papers have supplied weight data for Philippine birds. For example, Amadon & Jewett (1946) gave the mass of 31 species; Ripley & Rabor (1958), 483; Ripley & Rabor (1962), 7; and Parkes (1988), 1. But I know of no papers where the sex, month, and the bird's condition have been reported.

The mass of a bird is biologically more meaningful when related to its fat index (Clench & Leberman, 1978). In this paper, masses of 199 individuals from 84 species are listed; 12 others for which the mass is not given but which have other interesting information are discussed at the end of the paper along with the more unusual cases.

¹House of Bird Research, Taps Old Rectory, DK-6070 Christiansfeld, Denmark.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The birds were all collected on Luzon and Palawan between 1965 and 1980, most of them by Hartvig Jensen, and are now housed in Denmark. The collection is available for scientific research.

Masses were obtained using Pesola spring balances of 50, 100 and 300 g. Only birds which were sexed by dissection and by gonad measurement are included in this paper, with one exception (*Porzana pusilla*). Age determination was made by studying skull ossification, the size of gonads, the form of the oviduct, and the presence or absence of bursa Fabricii, all methods described by Erritzoe (1985). When the color of bare parts described on the bird-skin labels differed from the literature (du Pont, 1971; Ripley, 1977; Hayman, et al., 1986), it is so stated in the species account. Any interesting information about stomach contents is also given. Taxonomy follows Dickinson, et al. (1991), with one exception (*Phuvialis fulva*). Birds were identified only to species level.

Abbreviations used are: ad, adult; bF, bursa Fabricii; P, purchased in the bird pet-market in Manila; imm, immature; l, lean (breastbone keen, lacking 1/3 or more of breast-muscle); l-n, a little lean (breastbone a little sharp); n, normal (no or only very little fat visible); n-f, a little fat; f, fat (fat fills furcula area which is level); vf, very fat (furcular area bulges with fat).

Sites (all Luzon except Iwahig) mentioned in the text are: Alicia (16° 80' N, 121° 75' E); Apalit (14° 57' N, 120° 46' E); Aparri (18° 22' N, 121° 39' E); Bataan Province (14° 30' N, 120° 25' E); Bulacan Province (15° 00' N, 121° 05' E); Cabanatuan (15° 29' N, 120° 58' E); Cagayan Province (18° 00' N, 121° 50' E); Casq (14° 40' N, 121° 30' E); Chico River (17° 37' N, 121° 30' E); Clayeria (18° 37' N, 121° 05' E); Conner (17° 50' N, 121° 10' E); Gonzaga (18° 15' N, 122° 20' E); Isabela Province (17° 00' N, 122° 00' E); Iwahig, Palawan (09° 45' N, 118° 40' E); Jones (16° 50' N, 121° 70' E); Laguna de Bai (14° 23' N, 121° 15' E); Laguna Kaliraya (14° 10' N, 121° 35' E); Los Baños (14° 13' N, 121° 11' E); Maddela (16° 21' N, 121° 41' E); Magot River (16° 25' N, 121° 17' E); Malamag Province (17° 17' N, 121° 48' E); Mt. Maquiling (14° 08' N, 121° 12' E); Munting Buhangin (14° 02' N, 120° 30' E); Nassiping (17° 58' N, 121° 37' E); Palau Island (18° 35' N, 122° 08' E); Pata (17° 38' N, 121° 30' E); Peña Blanca (17° 40' N, 121° 45' E); Punta (12° 50' N, 121° 37' E); San Mariano (17° 00' N, 122° 00' E); Santa Ana (18° 30' N, 122° 20' E); Santa Fe (16° 10' N, 120° 57' E); Santa Teresita Beach (18° 30' N, 122° 00' E); Tabang (17° 50' N, 121° 30' E).

SYSTEMATIC LIST

FAMILY RALLIDAE

Gallirallus philippensis (Linné, 1766)

♀ ad, 15 October, Apalit. 172 g (n-f); largest eggs in ovary 7.9, 6.8, 4.4, and 3.9 mm.

Gallirallus striatus (Linné, 1766)

♂ ad, 13 February, Laguna de Bai. 98 g (n); iris brown, bill reddish-brown, legs and feet slate-grey.

♂ ad, 01 March, Laguna de Bai. 128 g (n). Stomach contents: freshwater snails.

Gallirallus torquatus (Linné, 1766)

♂ ad, 25 February, Laguna de Bai. 276 g (f).

Rallina eurizonoides (Lafresnaye, 1845)

♀ ad, 20 April, Peña Blanca. 79 g (n).

Porzana pusilla (Pallas, 1776)

♂, 06 February, Laguna de Bai. Found decayed. Det. Kenneth C. Parkes.

♀, 21 October, Santa Fe. 39 g (f); iris orange-red, bill and legs greenish. Habitat: tall grass. Stomach contents: rice.

Porzana fusca (Linné, 1766)

♂ imm, 03 December, Santa Fe. 51 g, bF 9.0 x 3.7 mm. Stomach contents: rice.

♂ imm, 06 December, Santa Fe. 51 g, bF 7.5 x 3.5 mm.

♀ imm, 03 December, Santa Fe. 40 g (n), bF approx. 4.4 x 1.9 mm; iris and eye-ring orange-red, bill dark green, legs dirty red.

Porzana tabuensis (Gmelin, 1789)

♂ imm, 04 December, Santa Fe. 33 g (f), bF 7.3 x 3.9 mm; iris orange, legs red-brown.

Porzana cinerea (Vieillot, 1819)

♂, 21 May, Alicia. 65 g.

♀ ad, 21 May, Alicia. 72 g.

Amaurornis phoenicurus (Pennant, 1769)

♀ ad, 08 February, Laguna de Bai. 120 g, bF 11.6 x 5.4 mm.

♀ imm, 13 February, Laguna de Bai. 141 g.

Gallicrex cinerea (Gmelin, 1789)

♂ ad, 20 May, Alicia. 443 g (n); testes: left 19.4 x 13.8, right 21.0 x 11.5 mm; iris brown.

♀ ad, 20 May, Alicia. 292 g; largest egg 4.7 mm.

FAMILY ROSTRATULIDAE

Rostratula benghalensis (Linné, 1758)

♂ ad, 12 February, Tabang. 145 g; iris brown.

♂ ad, 13 February, Laguna de Bai. Iris dark brown.

♀ ad, 26 March, Cabanatuan. 163 g; largest egg 8.0 mm.

♀ ad, 24 April, Chico River.

♀ ad, 20 May, Alicia. 178 g (n); small feathers in molt; largest eggs: 12.8, 7.7, and 4.3 mm.

FAMILY CHARADRIIDAE

Pluvialis fulva (Gmelin, 1789)

♂ ad, 24 April, Chico River. 136 g (f).

♀ imm, 08 March, Cagayan. Legs blue-grey. Stomach contents: small snails.

♀ imm, 31 March, Aparri. Stomach contents: small snails.

Charadrius dubius Scopoli, 1786

♂ ad, 26 May, Chico River. 33 g (n).

♀ ad, 10 March, Magot River. 34 g (n); largest eggs: 2.6, 2.5, 2.2, and 1.7 mm.

Charadrius alexandrinus Linné, 1758

♂ imm, 31 March, Aparri. 43 g (l).

♀ imm, 03 March, Aparri. 39 g (l).

♀ imm, 22 March, Aparri. 38 g (l).

Charadrius peronii "Temminck" Schlegel, 1865

♂ ad, 22 February, Casq. Was alone.

Charadrius mongolus Pallas, 1776

♂ ad, 25 May, Aparri. 53 g (n-f). Stomach contents: small insects, maggots, and snails.

♀ imm, 03 May, Aparri. Legs blue-grey.

Charadrius leschenaultii Lesson, 1826

10 ♂♂, 31 March - 22 April, Aparri. 60-81 g (mean 68.8 g).

4 ♀♀, 03-21 April, Aparri. 70-81 g (mean 75.8 g).

FAMILY SCOLOPACIDAE

Tringa stagnatilis (Bechstein, 1803)

♂ ad, 11 May, Chico River. 76 g; testes: left 7.5 x 4.2 mm, right 7.5 x 4.6 mm.

Tringa nebularia (Gunnerus, 1767)

♂ ad, 09 April, Aparri. 154 g (n).

Tringa glareola Linné, 1758

♂ ad, 23 March, Isabela. 58 g (l).

♀ imm, 12 March, Chico River. 77 g (vf); in molt. Stomach contents: small snails.

2 ♀♀ imm, 12 March, Chico River. 77 and 65 g.

♀ imm, 31 March, Aparri. 58 g.

Actitis hypoleucos (Linné, 1758)

♀ ad, 23 April, Chico River. 49 g (vf).

Arenaria interpres (Linné, 1758)

♂ imm, 20 September, Aparri. 92 g (vf). Stomach contents: maggots.

Gallinago megala Swinhoe, 1861

♂ imm, 07 October, Pata. 134 g (f), bF 7.5 x 5.0 mm.

Calidris alba (Pallas, 1764)

♂ ad, 09 April, Aparri. 58 g (f). Stomach contents: small snails.

♂ ad, 21 May, Santa Teresita Beach. 55 g (f).

♀ ad, 07 May, Aparri. 54 g (n).

Calidris ruficollis (Pallas, 1776)

3 ♂♂, 02-10 April, Aparri. 25, 26, and 29 g.

- ♂, 20 May, Chico River. 28 g.
 ♂, 02 September, Aparri. 31 g.
 ♂, 05 September, Aparri. 30 g.
 ♂, 04 October, Aparri. 27 g.
 6 ♀ ♀, 21-24 April, Chico River. 24-34 g (mean 29.3 g).
 2 ♀ ♀, 16 and 20 May, Chico River. 37 and 34 g.
 ♀, 04 September, Aparri. 31 g.

Calidris subminuta (Middendorff, 1853)

- 2 ♂ ♂, 25 and 26 March, Chico River. 26 g and 27 g (n).
 ♂, 02 April, Chico River. 28 g (vf).
 ♂, 21 April, Chico River. 30 g (f).
 ♂, 24 April, Chico River. 25 g (f).
 ♂, April, Chico River. 30 g (vf).
 ♀, 26 March, Chico River. 28 g (n).
 ♀, March, Chico River. 28 g (n).
 ♀, 02 April, Aparri. 30 g (f).
 ♀, April, Chico River. 30 g.

Calidris acuminatus (Horsfield, 1821)

- 2 ♂ ♂ ad, 21 and 24 April, Chico River. 72 g and 73 g (f).
 ♂ ad, 05 May, Chico River. 69 g (vf) (fat = 6 g).
 ♀ imm, 20 April, Chico River. 62 g.
 ♀ imm, 06 May, Chico River. 55 g.
 ♀ imm, 20 May, Chico River. 66 g (f).

Calidris ferruginea (Pontoppidan, 1763)

- ♂ ad, 04 May, Chico River. 56 g.
 ♂ ad, 10 May, Chico River. 55 g.

Calidris alpina (Linné, 1758)

- ♀ ad, 01 March, Aparri. 61 g (n-f).

FAMILY STERNIDAE

Sterna albifrons Pallas, 1764

- ♀ ad, 14 April, Aparri. 56 g (f).

FAMILY PSITTACIDAE

Prioniturus discurus (Vieillot, 1822)

- ♂, 26 October, P. 86 g (l).

Tanygnathus lucionensis (Linné, 1766)

♂, June, P. 168 g (l-n).

♂ ad, June, P. 148 g (l).

♂, 30 December, P. 168 g (l).

Tanygnathus sumatranus (Raffles, 1822)

♂, 06 June, P. 173 g (l).

Loriculus philippensis (P. L. S. Müller, 1776)

♂ imm, 06 June, P. 31 g.

♀ imm, 07 December, P. 35 g (n).

FAMILY CUCULIDAE

Phaenicophaeus superciliosus Dumont, 1823

♂ ad, 20 April, Cagayan. 100 g (n). Stomach contents: large indeterminate insects and locusts.

♂ ad, 15 August, Bulacán. 112 g (n).

Phaenicophaeus curvirostris (Shaw, 1810)

♂ ad, 16 May, Iwahig. 144 g (n).

Phaenicophaeus cumingi Fraser, 1839

♀ ad, 15 March, P. 139 g.

♀ ad, 15 May, P. 104 g (l).

Centropus bengalensis (Gmelin, 1788)

♂, 12 April, Pata. In molt; iris yellow (!). Stomach contents: large indeterminate insects and locusts.

Centropus unirufus (Cabanis & Heine, 1863)

♀ ad, 19 June, Santa Fe. 162 g (n); legs slate grey. Stomach contents: passerine bird (!) and insects.

FAMILY APODIDAE

Collocalia esculenta (Linné, 1758)

3 ♂♂ imm, 28 August, Clayeria.

♀, 17 April, Malamag.

FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE

Alcedo atthis (Linné, 1758)

♂ ad, 14 April, Santa Fe. 29 g (f).

♂, 09 October, Chico River. 24 g (n); breast feathers in molt.

♀, 29 March, Chico River. 27 g (f).

Halcyon coromanda (Latham, 1790)

♂, 21 April, Palaui Island. 108 g. Stomach contents: snails.

♀, 18 October, Santa Fe. 87 g (f); primaries on left wing very worn.

Halcyon smyrnensis (Linné, 1758)

♂ ad, May, Bulâcan. 68 g.

Halcyon chloris (Scopoli, 1786)

♂ ad, 16 April, Laguna de Bai. 55 g (n). Stomach contents: caterpillar and other insects.

♀ ad, 18 April, Santa Fe. 57 g.

FAMILY MEROPIDAE

Merops viridis Linné, 1758

♀ ad, 04 April, Punta. 40 g.

Merops philippinus Linné, 1766

♂ ad, 29 March, Chico River. 36 g (n).

FAMILY PITTIDAE

Pitta erythrogaster Temminck, 1823

♂ ad, 16 June, Santa Fe. 49.7 g (n).

♀ ad, 23 November, Santa Fe. 47 g (n).

♀ imm, 04 December, Santa Fe. 47 g (n), bF 5.0 x 3.1 mm.

♀ imm, 09 December, Santa Fe. 46 g (n).

Pitta sordida (P. L. S. Müller, 1776)

♂ ad, 25 April, Santa Fe. 59 g (f).

♂ ad, 16 May, Iwahig. 64 g.

2 ♀♀ ad, 17 and 18 April, Santa Fe. 45.4 g (l-n) and 48 g (n).

FAMILY ALAUDIDAE

Mirafra javanica Horsfield, 1821

♂ ad, 24 May, Pata. 21 g (n).

2 ♂♂, 13 and 19 October, Santa Fe. 23 g (n) and 19 g. Stomach contents: rice.

3 ♂♂, 06 and 11 December, Santa Fe. 20, 21, and 21 g. Stomach contents: rice, insects and plant matter.

Alauda gulgula Franklin, 1831

♂ ad, 25 March, Chico River. 26 g. Stomach contents: insects.

FAMILY HIRUNDINIDAE

Hirundo daurica Linné, 1771

♂ ad, 13 May, Santa Ana. 31 g (f).

FAMILY PYCNONOTIDAE

Pycnonotus urostictus (Salvadori, 1870)

♂ ad, 20 April, Peña Blanca. 26 g (n); eye-ring lemon-yellow.

Pycnonotus goiavier (Scopoli, 1786)

♀ ad, 31 October, Peña Blanca. 31 g (n).

FAMILY ORIOLIDAE

Oriolus chinensis Linné, 1766

♀ ad, 12 February, Bulacán. 106 g (vf). Stomach contents: larvae, fruit, berries.

FAMILY PARIDAE

Parus elegans Lesson, 1831

♂ ad, 18 April, Laguna de Bai. 15 g (n).

♂ ad, 11 May, Santa Fe. 14 g (n).

FAMILY SITTIDAE

Sitta frontalis Swainson, 1820

♂ ad, 11 May, Santa Fe. 17 g (n).

FAMILY RHABDORNITHIDAE

Rhabdornis mystacalis (Temminck, 1825)

♂ ad, 19 April, Laguna de Bai. 28 g (n).

FAMILY TURDIDAE

Copsychus luzoniensis (Kittlitz, 1832)

♂ ad, 04 March, Mt. Maquiling. 25 g.

Copsychus niger (Sharpe, 1877)

♂ ad, 16 May, Iwahig. 30 g (n).

Saxicola caprata (Linné, 1766)

♂ ad, 01 February, Luzon. 15 g.

♂ ad, 04 May, Maddela. 14 g (n).

♂ ad, 26 May, Pata. 14 g.

♂ imm, 06 September, Pata. Stomach contents: berries.

♀ ad, 07 March, North Luzon. 16 g.

Monticola solitarius (Linné, 1758)

♂, 24 January, Santa Fe. 41 g (l); right side of breast in molt.

♀ ad, October, Chico River. 52 g (n).

Turdus chrysolaus Temminck, 1831

♂, February, Santa Fe. 71.5 g.

FAMILY SYLVIIDAE

Phylloscopus borealis (Blasius, 1858)

♀ imm, 18 October, Santa Fe. 8 g (l).

Acrocephalus stentoreus (Ehrenberg, 1833)

♂, 29 March, Laguna de Bai. 23 g.

2 ♀♀, 13 and 20 March, Laguna de Bai. 21 g (n) and 19.8 g (n).

Acrocephalus orientalis (Temminck & Schlegel, 1847)

♂, 20 March, Laguna de Bai. 24 g (n).

♂, 03 April, Laguna de Bai. 27 g.

♂, 19 October, Santa Fe. 25 g (n).

♂, 06 November, Santa Fe. 26 g (f).

2 ♀♀ imm, 13 and 19 October, Santa Fe. 21 g (n) and 26 g.

Locustella ochotensis (Middendorff, 1853)

♂ imm, 06 November, Santa Fe. 17 g (n).

Locustella lanceolata (Temminck, 1840)

2 ♂♂, 03 and 07 December, Santa Fe. 12 g (f) and 10 g (f).

2 ♀♀, 08 and 18 October, Santa Fe. 11 g and 10 g (f).

Megalurus palustris Horsfield, 1820

♂ ad, 24 February, Jones. 47 g. Stomach contents: plant matter and insects.

♂ ad, 03 April, Magot River. 58 g.

♀, 03 April, Laguna de Bai. 35 g (n).

♀ imm, 02 October, Laguna de Bai. 35 g (n), bF 7.7 x 3.4 mm.

Cisticola juncidis (Rafinesque, 1810)

♂ ad, 25 May, Gonzaga. 10 g (n).

FAMILY MUSCICAPIDAE

Cyornis rufigastra (Raffles, 1822)

♂, 17 February, Nassiping. 17 g.

♂, 29 December, Munting. 20 g.

♀, 28 December, Munting. 17 g; one albino feather on back.

Rhipidura cyaniceps (Cassin, 1855)

♂, 03 January, Laguna de Bai. 16 g (n).

♂, 01 December, Los Baños. 18 g (n).

♀, 18 April, Laguna Kaliraya. 14 g.

♀ ad, 19 May, Santa Fe. 13 g (n); legs slate-grey.

Rhipidura javanica (Sparman, 1788)

♂, 27 December, Bataan. 18 g (n).

♀, 26 December, Bataan. 18 g (n).

Hypothymis azurea (Boddaert, 1783)

♂ ad, 01 April, Pata. Mouth and tongue yellow.

♀ ad, 21 April, Palau Island. 12 g (n).

FAMILY MOTACILLIDAE

Motacilla flava Linné, 1758

♂, 03 February, Magot River. 15 g.

♂, 18 May, Santa Fe. 31 g (vf).

Anthus novaeseelandiae (Gmelin, 1789)

- ♂ ad, 06 March, Pata. 28 g.
 ♂ ad, 24 May, Pata. 25 g.
 ♂ ad, 25 May, San Mariano. 22 g.
 2 ♂♂, 26 May, Chico River. 24 g and 27 g (n).
 ♂ ad, 10 September, Isabela. 27 g.
 ♀, 08 March, North Luzon. 27 g.
 ♀ ad, 25 May, Aparri. 26 g (n).
 ♀ imm, 07 September, Pata. 27.5 g.

FAMILY ARTAMIDAE

Artamus leucorhynchus (Linné, 1771)

- ♂ ad, 24 April, Conner. 42 g (n).

FAMILY LANIIDAE

Lanius schach Linné, 1758

- ♂ imm, 02 October, Luzon. 37 g.
 ♀ ad, 26 May, Pata. 36 g (n).

FAMILY STURNIDAE

Sarcops calvus (Linné, 1766)

- ♀ ad, 18 February, P. 82 g (l).

Acridotheres cristatellus (Linné, 1766)

- ♂ ad, 06 May, Santa Fe. 122 g (n-f).

FAMILY NECTARINIIDAE

Nectarinia jugularis (Linné, 1766)

- ♂ ad, 06 March, Laguna de Bai. 9 g.
 ♂ ad, 01 June, Santa Fe. 9 g (n).
 ♀ ad, 07 March, Laguna Kaliraya. 8 g (n).

FAMILY DICAIEIDAE

Dicaeum australe (Hermann, 1783)

- ♂ ad, 19 April, Laguna Kaliraya. 9 g (n).
 ♀ ad, 12 March, Laguna Kaliraya. 9 g (n).

FAMILY ZOSTEROPIDAE

Zosterops montanus Bonaparte, 1851

♂♂, 02 and 03 January, Laguna de Bai. 11 g (f) and 12 g.

FAMILY PLOCEIDAE

Passer montanus (Linné, 1758)

♂ ad, 10 January, Cagayan. 19.5 g (l).

FAMILY ESTRILDIDAE

Lonchura punctulata (Linné, 1758)

♀ ad, 03 April, Laguna de Bai. 13 g.

DISCUSSION

Not surprisingly, the Rallidae with their hidden habits offered the most interesting records. Among 16 skins and one skeleton, seven species are uncommon to rare (Dickinson, et al., 1991):

Uncommon resident: *Rallina eurizonoides* (n = 1); *Porzana fusca* (n = 3).

Uncommon, probably winter visitor: *Porzana pusilla* (n = 2).

Rare and extremely secretive resident: *Porzana tabuensis* (n = 1).

In all cases, except the Baillon's Crake (*Porzana pusilla*) found dead and decomposed, the local people had caught the birds in snares for consumption.

The large *Gallicrex cinerea* male was still in its non-breeding plumage without any trace of molt despite the large gonads and breeding reported to start only one month later (Ripley, 1977).

The Greater Painted-snip, *Rostratula benghalensis*, is an uncommon, local resident (Dickinson, et al., 1991). The five specimens collected one-at-a-time on Luzon suggest that the population on this island is overlooked and more common than previously believed.

The Marsh Sandpiper, *Tringa stagnatilis*, is a passage migrant or winter visitor (Dickinson, et al., 1991). The late date, 11 May, and the low body mass (76 g; range 55.0 - 120.0 g, Dunning, 1993) indicate that it may have been a summer visitor. The record of a Common Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*, is also noteworthy because it is reported as an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor (Dickinson, et al., 1991).

The Sanderling, *Calidris alba*, is classified as rare and only seen on Luzon between November and May (Dickinson, et al., 1991). All three Sanderlings were from April-May with small- (April) to medium-sized

gonads. The record from 21 May might possibly have been a non-breeding summer visitor because many non-breeders remain south all year (Hayman, et al., 1986). The most remarkable shorebird is the Dunlin, *Calidris alpina*, found dead on the sand beach at Aparri, 01 March 1988, the first record of this species for the Philippines (Erritzoe, 1994).

The single record of a Little Tern, *Sterna albifrons*, from Aparri is also interesting, because this bird is an uncommon winter visitor and a rare resident only breeding on Mindoro (Dickinson, et al., 1991).

The female Ruddy Kingfisher, *Halcyon coromanda*, collected on 18 October was abnormal in having all primaries new except three in the right wing, primaries 7-8 with normal wear, and primary 10 about 2 mm shorter. Compared with this, the primaries on the left wing were all worn and shortened, some about one-quarter of the normal length, and the outer webs on most primaries had notches. It looked most similar to the feather-eating commonly seen, for instance, in captive parrots, but I have never seen this reported in kingfishers. The bird was otherwise in quite normal condition.

I compared a White-breasted Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis*, from Selangor, Malaysia, and another skin from Bangkok, Thailand [both of the subspecies *fusca* (Boddaert, 1783)], with the specimen from the Philippines [subspecies *gularis* (Kuhl, 1820)], and found a surprising detail. On an area of the lower breast, where the nominate and *H. s. fusca* are white and the Philippine bird is typically red-brown, a faint tinge of white was visible. On the same area, the bases of the feathers were black. On the other hand, on the upper breast and lower throat, the bases of the red-brown feathers were white, but here the feathers had no white tinge. This color pattern has not been mentioned in other works (Forshaw & Cooper, 1985; Fry, et al., 1992).

The two males of *Zosterops montanus* were determined to belong to this species in spite of the lowland locality because of black lores which in *Z. meyeri* Bonaparte, 1850, are paler (Mees, 1957: 170).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This paper is dedicated to my dear brother, Thorkild Erritzoe, who for many years was the Danish Consul General for the Philippines. I acknowledge Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes and Prof. Anders Pape Møller for making valuable comments on an earlier draft of this manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

- Amadon, D. & S. T. Jewett. 1946. Notes on Philippine birds. *Auk*, **63**: 541-559.
- Clench, M. H. & R. C. Leberman. 1978. Weights of 151 species of Pennsylvania birds analyzed by month, age, and sex. *Bulletin of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History*, **5**, 87 pp.
- Dickinson, E. C., R. Kennedy, & K. C. Parkes. 1991. The Birds of the Philippines: an annotated check-list. *British Ornithologists' Union Check-list* **12**, 507 pp.
- Dunning, J. B., Jr. 1984. Body weights of 686 species of North American birds. *Western Bird Banding Association, Monograph* **1**, 38 pp.
- . 1993. *Avian Body Masses*. CRC Press, Boca Raton, 371 pp.
- du Pont, J. E. 1971. *Philippine Birds*. Delaware Museum of Natural History, Greenville, 480 pp.
- Erritzoe, J. 1985. Geschlechts- and Altersbestimmung bei Vögeln. *Der Präparator*, **31**: 81-93.
- . 1994. First record of the Dunlin from the Philippines. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, **114**: 128-129.
- Forshaw, J. M. & W. T. Cooper. 1985. *Kingfishers and Related Birds*, vol. 1. Lansdowne, Melbourne, 266 pp.
- Fry, C. H., K. Fry, & A. Harris. 1992. *Kingfishers, Bee-Eaters & Rollers*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 324 pp.
- Hayman, P., J. Marchant, & T. Prater. 1986. *Shorebirds, an identification guide to the waders of the world*. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 412 pp.
- Mees, G. F. 1957. A systematic review of the Indo-Australian Zosteropidae. Part 1. *Zoologische Verhandelingen (Leiden)*, **35**: 1-204.
- Parkes, K. C. 1988. Three new subspecies of Philippine birds. *Nemouria*, **30**: 1-8.
- Ripley, S. D. 1977. *Rails of the World*. David R. Godine, Boston, 406 pp.
- & D. S. Rabor. 1958. Notes on a collection of birds from Mindoro Island, Philippines. *Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, Bulletin*, **13**: 1-83.
- & ———. 1962. New birds from Palawan and Culion Islands, Philippines. *Postilla*, **73**: 1-16.
- Smith, J. N. M., P. Arcese, & D. Schluter. 1986. Song sparrows grow and shrink with age. *Auk*, **103**: 210-212.
- Thomas, B. T. 1982. Weights of some Venezuelan birds. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, **102**: 48-52.